



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

August 16, 2016
Municipal Center, Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA
2016 SEP 29 PM 2:28

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Craig Dauphinais, Acting Chairman, Sargon Hanna, Clerk, Brook Padgett, Timothy McInerney, Town Administrator and Doug Willardson, Assistant Town Administrator.

Members Absent: Jennifer Thomas and Bruce Spinney

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Read by Mr. Hanna

- The Worcester County Revolution will be rescheduled from October 2th to a date that has yet to be determined.
- A Cause for Paws Fundraiser would be held Saturday – August 20th 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Grafton Fire Headquarters, 26 Upton Street.
- Summer Stories in the Park were scheduled for August 19th at Airport Park and August 21st at Mill Villages Park.
- Doggie Dip Day would be held August 21st at Silver Lake Beach 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Donations of pet supplies, bedding and food for a local shelter will be accepted.

Medical Marijuana – Nature's Remedy

The public hearing notice was read by Mr. Hanna. A motion was made by Mr. Padgett to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried. This discussion was being continued from the May 24, 2016 Selectmen's meeting. John Brady and Philip Silverman Representatives of Nature's Remedy were present to further discuss the Nature's Remedy proposal and to request the Selectmen sign a letter of non opposition. Mr. Silverman briefly outlined the previous presentation. He outlined the client process to gain entry, the security system, the seed to cell tracking process, the security of the growing facility, camera surveillance as well as the benefits they felt this facility would bring to the Town. They anticipate 8-20 immediate hires with local preference. Mr. Silverman felt there was potential growth of 50-60 employees. Also discussed was the Host Agreement, an agreement which would also benefit the town. Mr. Hanna stated that he was not in favor of signing the letter of non opposition with only three members present. He would also like to see the Town Administrator start negotiating the host agreement process in alignment with the letter of non opposition. Mr. McInerney felt the towns concerns relative to recreational use/growing should be included in the verbiage of the letter. Mr. Silverman had a template from the state, noting they (the state) preferred minimal changes to the letter, but would accept language in opposition to recreational use. Mr. McInerney stated the host agreement could contain this language as well. Mr. Silverman stated that he did not want to focus too much on this until they knew the outcome of the ballot vote. He also stated that as a

non profit they were not allowed to work with anything but medicinal marijuana. Mr. Brady said if there could be a change in the future, they would have to come before the Selectmen for approval. Mr. Dauphinais' concern was a business transaction later on to a for profit group, this could change everything. Mr. Brady said they would commit to coming back to the Selectmen if this happened. Mr. Gallagher, 31 Hollywood Drive was excited about this location, he felt the process was more in-depth so far and he was happy to hear discussions relative to the host agreement. He felt it was important that the letter be held until a host agreement is near completion. He stated that Mr. Hanna was a benefit to the town as he has knowledge on the subject from his past experience. Mr. Gallagher felt recreational marijuana concerns were valid and he felt the town could afford to hold off on any decisions until the November results. Mr. Silverman said waiting until November would be problematic for them, they are up against DPH deadlines, concurrent with the host agreement was better. Mark Johnson, 19 Hilltop Street felt the Selectmen needed to consider the ballot initiative. He discussed his concerns with local control should this pass. He suggested the Selectmen read the referendum in its entirety or have Town Counsel review it. A motion was made by Mr. Padgett to continue the public hearing on September 6, 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. Hanna. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer Collector / Part Time Administrative Assistant: A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to affirm the appointment of Tina Abdi as a Part Time Administrative Assistant in the Treasurer Collector's Office. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

Council on Aging, Part Time Cook: This appointment was the result of a joint meeting with the Selectmen and Council on Aging. The director was given the task to find a part time cook that could provide better tasting and more nutritious meals. This appointment aligned with the goals given to the direct. A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to affirm the appointment of Lori Galvin as the Part Time Cook for the Council on Aging. Motion Seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0

Cultural Council A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to appoint Melinda J. Springer as a member of the Grafton Cultural Council. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

RESIGNATIONS

Board of Library Trustees A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to accept the resignation of Cyndi Zarriello from the Board of Library Trustees. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion Carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

One Day Beer and Wine License - Grafton Men's Softball

A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to approve a one day beer and wine license for the Grafton Men's Softball League Tournament held on September 3rd, 4th and 5th. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

Bayside Engineering Contract – Design Services for Bridge Park: Ray Mead was present and spoke on behalf of the project. Bayside Engineering was the original firm hired when the project started years ago. The contract will provide engineering and landscape design services for the final design of Bridge Park (Bridge Street; abandoned

over the Quinsigamond River). Mr. Mead noted that Town Counsel and the Assistant Town Administrator reviewed the contract. Mr. Mead said once the designs are complete, and all meetings have been held with both Grafton's Conservation Commission and MassDOT they will go out to bid on the project. There was discussion regarding the anticipated cost of the new guardrail system. Mr. Mead explained what the work would involve stating the group had not anticipated this additional cost, but it had to be done based on MassDOT rules and requirements. The intent is to have Mass Highway do the work, but that was not confirmed as of yet. The bridge work will not be done unless they have state funds for the guardrail in hand. A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to sign the contract with Bayside Engineering for Bridge Park (Bridge Street over the Quinsigamond River). Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

Vote to Approve Chapter 90 Paperwork – Carroll Road Layout

This request is for work in conjunction with the proposed sidewalk plan in that area. Letters were sent to neighbors, with mixed responses received. Mr. McInerney agreed that the Town should have an official layout for the right of ways in that area. It will also determine if there is enough roadway for the sidewalk project. Mr. Dauphinais felt it was a lot of money for this project, stating it even included permitting for wetlands and he did not think there were wetlands in that area. Mr. Hanna thought this would be good information to have on file for this project and future uses. This was a phased approach and Carroll Road was on the schedule for fall paving. Mr. McInerney noted that the paving job could potentially stall this project. A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to approve the Chapter 90 project request for Carroll Road. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

Vote to Approve Chapter 90 Paperwork – Flashing Crosswalk Lights

Mr. McInerney outlined this project which would place pedestrian crossing signs beginning with the crossing of Brigham Hill Road and Providence Road. The signs will have a rapid flash beacon, used to supplement the painted crosswalks. Studies have shown these lights significantly increase driver yielding behavior. Mr. Dauphinais thought there was a greater need in North Grafton near Waterville Street. Mr. McInerney said these areas were also on the list. This particular spots has an extensive amount of foot traffic with the two schools and the playing fields. A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to approve the Chapter 90 project request for 30 Providence Rd., 90 Main Street, 46 Waterville Street and 60 North Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

Vote to Sign DNR Laboratories Contract – Replacement of Payout Server System for Grafton Cable Studio: This contract was to replace the current broadcasting server. Larry Silverman of the Cable Oversight Committee explained the problems they had with the old server and reasons why an upgrade was needed. The current system was not functioning 100% and it was not repairable. Mr. Silverman reviewed the procurement process and bid process which they followed. This upgrade would also make off site programming much easier. This vendor, DNR was very close to budget as well. A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to sign the contract with DNR Laboratories, Watertown Connecticut. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

Vote to Sign a Stormwater Agreement Between Grafton and Tufts:

Tufts Representative Jeanne Poteete was present to discuss the stormwater agreement between Grafton and Tufts. The Memorandum of Understanding is a requirement of the

equine sports medicine center which was being built. This would take the storm water from parking areas and facility. It was also going to be a comprehensive solution to a problem they'd had with water runoff over one of their fields. It will mitigate the problem. A motion was made by Mr. Hanna to sign the Stormwater Agreement between the Town of Grafton and Tufts. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

In the near future, Mr. Hanna would be requesting a meeting of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Mr. Dauphinais would like the Economic Development Committee to attend the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss their goals moving forward. Keep the communication strong with the EDC and include them in more projects.

Mr. Padgett said the One Grafton Common Town House Committee heard about the parking discussions (Boulevard) and they were pro angle parking. They also thought the one way traffic was good. They may send a letter to the Selectmen.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. McNerney stated that Massachusetts confirmed its first case of West Nile virus. It was found in Middlesex County. Residents have been updated and educated through the Town's Web Page based on information received from the Department of Health.

The streetscape meeting on the 11th was well attended. Mr. McNerney felt when this was complete there will be a boost in the Economic Development. This was a 5-6 year project. Mr. Bernat's site was still viable for mixed use and would surely spur economic development.

There were ongoing discussions with a major plastics company interested in relocating to Grafton.

Mr. McNerney worked with Bob Detoma and Bill Robidoux and created a short economic development video which he hoped the town would use as a "calling" card for folks looking to come to Grafton. The town wants people to know we are here and ready to help with the transition. Mr. McNerney played the video. Mr. Dauphinais thought the timing was great. He thanked the team for taking the initiative to do this. Mr. Hanna thought it was a great video as well. He would suggest omitting Grafton was a bedroom community. He thought the green font was a little hard to see, but overall he thought it was great. The Board would like to see this run on the cable channels as often as possible. Mr. Detoma thanked Mr. Robidoux for the many hours he put into the project. It was noted that Mr. Detoma was interviewing local businesses and running the segments on GCTV. Mr. McNerney stated he was working with the state relative to a parcel on Pine Street and discussions were going well.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Hanna read a letter from the Board of Health regarding new regulations restricting the sale of tobacco products. The changes may be viewed on the Board of Health's web page or by visiting their office. Mr. Dauphinais asked if people currently between 18-21 would be grandfathered. Had the businesses been notified? He also wanted to know how many surrounding towns made such changes. Mr. McNerney would find the answers to his questions.

DISCUSSION

Mr. McInerney had a draft copy of the Affordable Housing Trust Action Plan. The AHT will be looking for comments. The Affordable Housing Trust will be attending the September 20th meeting to review and discuss this plan.

October Warrant Articles:

The Agricultural Commission submitted a right to farm article. They would attend an upcoming meeting to discuss this. Mr. McInerney suggested language on the warrant to avoid subordinate boards from holding up the payables process after Town Meeting had approved funds. The Town would always comply with the laws. Also for the public good, the town should be able to get waivers on projects; need to eliminate the road blocks. The Town needed to rely on staff more than the people holding the hearings. Mr. McInerney was not opposed to public hearings and the valuable input. However, he felt at times projects were held back for reasons unrelated to the purpose of the project and that needed to stop. Mr. McInerney would prepare an article. Relative to the Charter Review Committee, they will be bringing suggested amendments forward after their public hearing. After town meeting the changes will go to the ballot, it most likely would not happen this fall.

Mr. Padgett suggested that the town allow parking in front of the old fire station. In order not to interfere with the school department it could be posted parking form 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES - Tabled to next meeting

At 8:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hanna to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Padgett. Motion carried 3-0.

For more information, this and other meetings can be viewed on Grafton Television.
www.Graftontv.org.



Jennifer Thomas – Chair

9.6.2016

Date



Cindy Ide, Recording Secretary